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EW'S GUIDE TO BOOZE,

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Eugene's Sexiest
Bartender Rio Towner
of Davis' Restaurant

DOUSED P.3 | DISSSED P.6 | DRUNK P.10

DIVE IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD

A drinker's guide to the upside of the down and dirty BY RICK LEVIN

Hey look, mister. We serve hard drinks in here for men who want to get drunk fast, and we don't need any characters around to give the joint "atmosphere." — Nick to George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*

Swizzle is a glamorous, glittery word. It conjures the image of a cocktail umbrella floating like an oasis in a fruity Hawaiian drink sipped slowly by a bikini-clad paralegal vacationing on a beach in Oahu, a Sue Grafton paperback folded over an oily thigh as she sleeps, burning, under a straw hat and sunglasses. *Swizzled*, as an adjective, smacks of F. Scott Fitzgerald — of audacity and aplomb, of flappers and bourgeois gentlemen for whom knowing how to hold your liquor is a sign of superiority and class. Swizzle is a dance, the straw that stirs the drink.

But there are them that drink who, when they do drink, like to drink in places decidedly un-swizzle-ish. Life is where you find it, and many of us prefer to take our drinks in the darker, but no less colorful, corners — in bars and lounges that are beautifully worn and torn, with caverns of anonymity where the vinyl covering on the stools is red and ripped, and the wooden top of the bar is warped and grooved by years of perched elbows.

Swizzle is lovely, but what we're getting at here is something different — not anti-swizzle, exactly, but perhaps swoozle, or swazzled, or maybe woozled. So, okay, let's out with it: We're talking about dives. For many of us — veteran drinkers and solace seekers and familiars of happy hour — dive is a word with four letters, but it isn't a four-letter word. It just means real, human, comfortable and predictable in its very randomness.

In literature, there are countless poets of the dive: Charles Bukowski, Raymond Chandler, Malcolm Lowery, Mary Gaitskill, Larry Brown. For my money, Denis Johnson is among the best, a writer who wickedly captures the ambivalent lure and terrifying splendor of the neighborhood dive. In his masterful collection of linked short stories, *Jesus' Son*, Johnson — over and over again, like a lush repeating the same story — tries to depict the sundown joys and resurrected sorrows of a bar called the Vine:

"There were many moments in the Vine like that one — here you might think today was yesterday, and yesterday was tomorrow, and so on. Because we all believed we were tragic, and we drank. We had that helpless, destined feeling. We would die with handcuffs on. We would be put a stop to, and it wouldn't be our fault. So we imagined. And yet we were always being found innocent for ridiculous reasons."

You either understand this or you don't. I don't drink anymore, but when I did, I always sought out places like the Vine. Yes, there is danger and caution in Johnson's words — the overblown romanticism of drinking, the outsize emotions and self-created heroism, the nihilistic nostalgic nowhere swoon of alcohol's black holes. Broken-winged angels and articulate failures and could-have-been contenders huddling together for warmth on the dark side of the moon.

But there is beauty there as well, and dignity, and small glories, and real people with real stories of real life, with its stings and triumphs, its fights and flights — in short, humanity. Humanity, and its quiet yearning, its dreams failed and fulfilled, or a little of both.

Again, Johnson: "The Vine was different every day... And with each step my heart broke for the person I would



PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

never find, the person who'd love me... But every time I entered the place there were veiled faces promising everything and then clarifying quickly into the dull, the usual, looking up at me and making the same mistake."

I know those faces. Bless them.

Consider this, then, a different sort of *Swizzle* — not contra *Swizzle*, but let's say the bittersweet yin to *swizzle*'s yang, the stumbling realism to *swizzle*'s glamour. Inside, you will find stories of bouncers and boozers, dirty martinis, camp and cocktails, cautionary tales about slumming and the sleaze of barroom come-ons. And you will find this truth, between the lines, under the cocktail napkin: Moderation in all things, including moderation.

So raise a toast to the Holy Ghost, and enjoy. ■

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HAPPY HUNTING

Dating advice, or how not to get a drink thrown in your face

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

I was standing at the bar at Davis' a couple weekends ago, having given up on the crowded dance floor, sipping a shot of Maker's Mark, when from behind I felt someone grab my side. I spun around and considered wasting a perfectly good whiskey by dumping it on the grabber's head, only to discover it was actually a friend, albeit a slightly drunk friend. This friend, let's call him William, leered genially and explained he was showing his buddy how to pick up women.

I gently explained that walking up behind a hapless female and grabbing her

in a way that feels like you're checking to see if you can pinch an inch is not the path to success, even in the less-than-stellar Eugene singles scene. "If you've reached a point with a woman where you think touching is appropriate," I said in my best talk-to-drunk-guys-like-it's-Kindergarten voice, then "use your open palm on her shoulder or back so it's less like you're checking her body fat."

William is a practitioner of what I call "the shotgun approach" to dating. You load up your double barrel shotgun with some rounds of birdshot and you start firing at

the flock. Sooner or later a pellet is going to hit something and you might score. Heck, if you get really lucky you might even pull off a little catch-and-release action (i.e., a one night stand). It works. Despite his technique, William does meet women, but I'm not going to recommend the strategy. A woman likes to feel that she's singularly special, not just the slowest bird a guy shoots at.

Having had the groping approach slapped down, William then wanted to know what was the best pickup line that had ever been used on me.

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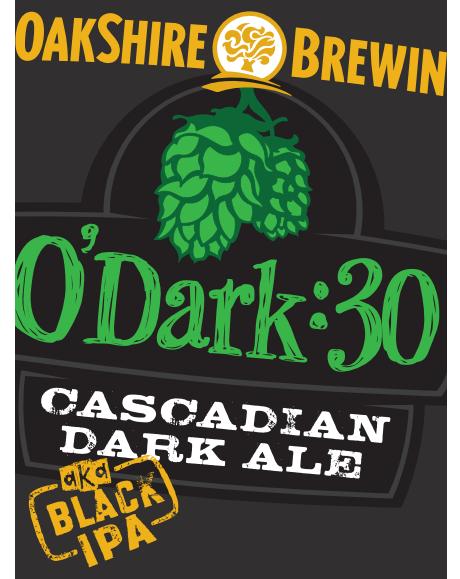


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Ah, pickup lines. It's not *what* you say; it's all in the delivery and the follow up.

I was sipping a drink at Jameson's one night, watching the hipsters shoot pool, and one fellow turned to me, handed me his cue, bowed gallantly and offered to let me take his shot. Great pick up; I was intrigued. Unfortunately, after I sank a couple balls, he said in surprise, "Oh! I didn't think you could actually play."

Ouch.

If you can't come up with a brilliant line ("Fuck me if I'm wrong, but I think I'd like to kiss you" — funny, but not brilliant) then go with a classic. The nice man at the KLCC Brew Fest made major points when he saw me sitting alone, and asked, "Is this seat taken?"

What not to do: Ask a woman about herself and then disrespect it. Instead, make her feel fascinating. (She *is* fascinating, right? That's why you're trying to pick her up.) If you make a faux pas, laugh and apologize. If you say sorry, and she's feeling what you're feeling, then she'll just think it will make a funny story later, when you guys are making speeches at the wedding. (If the word wedding makes you nervous, then stick with catch-and-release dating for now. I'll save advice on how to gracefully not date a woman whom you had a one night stand with for a future issue.).

Cheesy works for pickup lines, but only if you're able to convey that you know you're cheesy and make cheesy endearing. This is not easy to do, especially after a

*'It's a good thing I brought
my library card, because
I want to check you out.'*

He then lost the points when he asked what I did for a living and I said I wrote for the *Weekly*. He said the paper's politics annoyed him and he only read the back pages. I'm not sure what was worse — that he said this in front of a reporter from *The Register-Guard*, who cracked up, or that he just basically told me he pretty much only reads "Savage Love" and the personal ads. Ummm, I don't write the personal ads, but I do write some of that politics stuff. (Heck, we don't even edit the personals. *EW*'s policy is that if you can't use spellcheck, then the unsuspecting single folks of the world should know that from the beginning). He didn't notice the faux pas and I didn't follow up on his offer for a date.

few beers. Saying, "Hey baby, what's your sign" with an ironic tone is a bit of a risk. You might not sound ironic; you might just sound like someone who thought the '70s were awesome.

Personally, if you're going with cheesy, my favorite is the geek gold standard: Flash your up-to-date Eugene Public Library card and say, "It's a good thing I brought my library card, because I want to check you out."

My reaction: Swoon. Not only is he funny, but when he's sober, apparently he can read!

Or you may just want to stick with walking up behind unsuspecting females like a hunter stalking his prey and take a leap. It works for William. ■



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COME CLEAN, LEAVE DIRTY

A barhopping test of my martini faith BY VANESSA SALVIA

*Starkle, starkle, little twink,
Who the hell you are I think,
I'm not under what they call
The alcofluence of incohoh.
I'm not drunk as thinkle peep,
I'm just a little slort of sheep.*

— Sold Cober

The martini is a drink synonymous with *strong*. And it may also be among the most versatile cocktails known to man. The classic definition of martini, of course, is gin, vermouth and a green olive, plus a dash of orange bitters (a small but important detail that is, sadly, often left out). Even the James Bond variation — with vodka and lemon peel — is too much of a departure for the martini purist. If a martini is ordered with a pickled onion in place of the olive it gets its own name: The Gibson.

And yet drink menus all over the world show that the working definition of a martini is much, much broader. Any drink, regardless of the ingredients, is often called a martini — or given some cutesy 'tini name — if it's served in a martini glass. Whatever it's made of, it's certainly hard not to feel classy and sophisticated when sipping from the iconic, cone-shaped glass.

For a dirty martini, into the sacred mixture goes a splash of juice from the olive jar and, typically, since the bartender assumes that dirty martini-orderers *really* like olives, a toothpick full of the marinated gems resting rakishly in the glass. The drink itself, usually clear, takes on a cloudy, greenish hue. The olive juice makes it salty, the extra olives make it a meal.

A martini isn't hard to make and doesn't require a cupboard full of ingredients like many cocktails, but it's something that feels even more special when a professional bartender makes it for you. "I've tried making martinis at home and I'm not very good at it," says Maiya Becker. "Plus, it feels wrong. When I'm home, on the couch watching reruns of *Northern Exposure*, I want a beer. But out on the town with my girls in a dress? A martini is the perfect accessory."

When Becker came of drinking age, she knew she wanted to try a martini. And yet it took a few attempts to learn that she preferred vodka, and that her favorite part of the drink was the olives. Once, she was out with someone else who ordered a dirty martini, and she realized what she'd been missing. "A drink that tastes like the olives?" Becker remarks. "Perfect!"

Before embarking on research (read: drinking) for this article, I allowed that a martini could be made with vodka, but diluting the mythically crisp taste of a classic dry martini with olive juice (or anything else) was an affront

to civilized culture. So I figured I'd better bring along a drinking companion who actually *liked* the stuff. Becker likes them dirty enough that she calls them "filthy" — "I really want to taste the olives," she says — but there are a lot of variables with the drink. "I've had some that were so dirty it tasted like I was drinking brine," she says. "I think some bartenders think 'dirty' means I want as much olive juice as the glass can hold."

Becker was along on the first two stops of my martini quest. The first, and best, was downtown Eugene's Horsehead. If you can get over the fact that black rock 'n' roller clothing seems *de rigueur*, then you'll find that the Horsehead can make you one of the best dirty martinis in town. The décor may not be as posh as that of other downtown drinking establishments, but the lack of lighting makes that easy enough to overlook.

"Superb," says Becker of the Absolut vodka extra dirty martini with three olives she enjoyed there. "Although it tasted more olive-y than a regular martini, there was a delicate balance," she says. "You could taste the flavor of the vodka through the brine."

Despite the fact that martinis may not get ordered very much, any bartender worth his or her salt knows how to make one. Bartender J.T. Magee estimated that only "a sixteenth" of all of Horsehead orders are for dirty martinis, "if that, and maybe about four orders a night for a martini." (He says Horsehead's most popular drink is vodka and cranberry juice.)

If sipping a salty dirty martini is good, don't go overboard. At Good Times, Becker and I each ordered (mine: Tanqueray, dirty). Becker was approached by the lady bartender and I by the male bartender. The good news: expanding our data set by having two drinks made simultaneously by two different people. The bad news: locking lips with Becker's drink was, shall we say, disgusting? Not only were the drinks noticeably different in appearance (mine: an opaque light green; hers: a pukey, bright green color), they tasted vastly different. Upon inquiring, we discovered that the lady used a garlic and olive juice mixer for the drink. For Becker, it was undrinkable. "It tastes like it's made with something you would use to cook with," she said — imagine olive-flavored broth powder.

Though the bartender made Becker a replacement drink *sans* mixer, you could tell she was a bit chuffed at the extra work and having her recipe impugned: "You *said* you wanted it filthy... maybe you've gotten the mix before and just never knew it," she scolded us. Lesson: just use the brine straight from the jar, probably no more than half an ounce, for the best and brightest balance of flavors.

My third watering hole was the Prairie Schooner, on a weeknight at dinnertime. The bar was a solid row of people,



PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

and most of the tables were full of folks eating burgers and onion rings, drinking sodas, beers, wine, even a bloody Mary... but nothing in a martini glass. I ordered my dirty martini from server Trisha West, who said my request was not exactly odd, but... "We're typically a straight up or on the rocks kind of place," she said. When she delivered the goods, I was pleasantly surprised that it was almost mini-sized — easily consumable in two slugs. I sipped. It was the beginning of the evening, after all, and after a big martini or two you could be drinking lighter fluid and never know the difference. Its crisp yet salty flavor was the perfect foil for the appetizer platter our table split.

As Johnny Carson said, "happiness is finding two olives in your martini when you're hungry." If that's so, then ordering a dirty martini may be the quickest way to make sure that you not only get a drink that conveys you to a higher plane of nostalgia, but a snack too.

And there's another advantage the martini has over other drinks: everyone looks cool holding one, no matter what it's made of. ■

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ROB JUBBER,
BOUNCER AT
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A sober look at barroom bouncing

BY DANTE ZUÑIGA-WEST

Picture Jerry Springer episodes mixed with the fascinating objectivity of Animal Planet, add the potential of personal harm to the viewer, combine this with alcohol and bring a mouthpiece. That's bouncing.

It's a bit like being a big brother, a scary uncle and a mercenary all in one. It's not a dream job, but it's not a bad job either if you know what you're doing. I did it cause I was a broke-ass writer and I really needed the money. Everyone's got their reasons.

Bouncing is a strange line of work to find yourself in. A lot of the time it finds you.

My buddy Solomon (former bouncer at Peabody's) once got a job by accident, sitting at the bar drinking a beer and re-reading his favorite book. A drunk guy was getting out of hand and making some women uncomfortable. The bartender went to the kitchen to tell the owner, and returned to find the drunk guy unconscious on the floor and Solomon still sitting quietly with the beer, reading his book. I guess you could call that an interview.

I got lucky. I ended up catching my first shifts by way of affiliation with Ajarn Mike Walrath's Big Foot Gym, the Muay Thai kickboxing school where I am an instructor. All the instructors there are really nice but kind of scary. It would totally suck for a normal sober person to have to fight with any of them, let alone a drunkard. None of us are big scary Neanderthal-looking fools either. We just know how to conduct ourselves in a rumble.

Presentation is key. No one likes to be treated sourly when and where they go to drink. As Khun Kru Nate Sutterfield (bouncer at Jameson's) said to me, "I just try to smile at people, even if I'm having a bad day." It helps to have manners; you aren't going to win yourself any points on the job being a jerk to patrons — patrons whose safety is always your primary concern.

In the profession of bouncing one usually must hold credentials in private

security. An unarmed security course is an education in both law and protocol regarding the protection of patrons and the dispatching of perpetrators. Everything from handling a "suspect" to body language is covered.

Contrary to popular belief, most bouncers don't want to scrap. Chances are, that guy who just carded you at the door would much rather sit down and chat with you about your day at work than have to choke out a local ruffian who thinks he can do anything he wants once booze hits his bloodstream. However, shit happens, and as the bouncer you are the one expected to deal with it.

Hyper-vigilance is a must. A bouncer is human — no matter how spooky he may look, he probably likes music and socializing as much as the next man. When the liquor is flowing and the music is bumpin' it can be easy to get distracted by the pleasant lull of a happening drinking hole. As a bouncer, this lull is your worst enemy. You could find yourself in a throwdown with more than one guy in a matter of seconds. Anything could happen, and when it does happen it happens suddenly. You could get shot, stabbed, knocked out, centipeded (stomped out by many feet) or all of the above. You learn to put that reality in the back of your mind and just act. You have to act; if you hesitate, you're in trouble. You must possess genuine courage.

Even though most confrontations I encountered were with very drunk people who give the bouncer the advantage of being the sober and trained one, unknown variables can tilt the scales. I once was confronting a very drunk college kid on the outskirts of a gated patio when his buddy inside attacked both me and the head of security from behind. We tossed them out, but the kid and his friend came back to beef four times that night, with more people to back them up every time they returned. They got the worst of each exchange but it still sucked to deal with. Like I said, you have to be ready for anything.

Think of your job. Then think of getting ready for work at 8 pm. Strapping on a cup, pocketing a mouthpiece, drinking water and maybe some coffee and making sure to say goodnight to your woman who really isn't going to sleep well until you get back home safely. Think of being nice to people who often times are very not so nice and not so sober. Think of collecting beer glasses, inhaling second-hand cigarette smoke all night and then getting home at 4 am to exist on vampire hours until the next shift. Think of skinned knuckles, vomit, loud voices and cops. Then thank a bouncer. Better yet, in the spirit of this *Swizzle*, buy a few more drinks and tip your bartender graciously. Often that bouncer gets a percentage of your patronage. ■

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PHOTOS BY TODD COOPER

SUNDAY, TRASHY SUNDAY

Cowfish makes week's end Trai La Terrific BY JOHN LOCANTHI

Sunday. An exciting night on the town has never really been a Sunday thing. Many tuck in early to start their workweek well rested. Others stay home for lack of anything better to do. Sunday, boring Sunday.

Cowfish has a different idea.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 'Keep Your Clothes On Variety Show!'" says a tall blonde with a flower in her hair as she approaches the stage, sipping on "Mexican champagne" (a bottle of Corona). Trai La Trash then lists the drink specials for the night and welcomes in the first performer: a man synchronizing his guitar with a collection of random videos.

The variety show, which takes place 8-10 pm every Sunday at Cowfish, showcases an eclectic collection of local talent, running the gamut from lounge singers to dancers to instrumental experiments.

"I've wanted to put on this variety show from the beginning," says Cowfish co-owner Shawn Mediast. "There's a lot of performers who want to try out a short set in front of a crowd. We try to get a good mix of performers to make Sunday an interesting night."

Indeed. In just two weeks of attending this show, I've seen a ukulele player sing alternating comic and emo songs, a trio of singer-dancers thunderously stomping on the stage while singing "Big Spender," and a cantaloupe getting DP'd with bananas. The previously mentioned guitar-video performance seemed like the result of Wayne Coyne and Andy Warhol being locked in a basement with a guitar, a camcorder and a vial of acid... and yet it grew on me as it droned on.

"It's a great platform for local people to show off their talents in front of a comfortable crowd," says Michelle Sellers, a hairdresser by day and soulful lounge singer by night. After performing at the Actor's Cabaret of Eugene, Sellers has taken advantage of the opportunity to sing in a more relaxed lounge environment. Performing at the "Keep Your Clothes On Variety Show" has also introduced her to other musicians with whom she can collaborate.

The vivacious Trai La Trash (who is single) hosts the show on the first Sunday of every month. The professionally trained singer and voice actor is famous for putting on many underground shows in New York, including a street performance in an ice cream truck where she gave out scoops of Mister Frostee in Greenwich Village. Ms. Trash had to pay for the ice cream in the end, but she has no regrets. The comically profane host has raised money for many charities in both NYC and Eugene. She is a performance unto herself, with her singing, dancing, lewd stand-up shtick and audience-inclusive games. "I don't try to impersonate anyone, I'm Trai La," she responds to comparisons to Divine and RuPaul.

On the first Sunday of February, "Name That Tune!" was her game du soir. Trai La Trash brought two eager contestants onto the stage and urged both to bet on how long it would take the other to name that tune. The back-and-forth banter left one competitor with but a few seconds of the chorus. Ample enough time, as the winner shouted "Express Yourself" by Madonna in triumph. The prize: a drink on Trai La's tab.

"Make it cheap!" Ms. Trash joked.

The games, the jokes and the performances are all a part of an incredibly laid-back and relaxed atmosphere at the bar. It's just a group of people trying to have fun on a Sunday night.

On non-Trash Sundays of the month, Mediast hosts the variety show. Cowfish books more performers in the absence of Ms. Trash, and while there is less direct audience participation on these nights, the increased number of performers fills the void. Instead of the tall blonde singing and dancing to campy disco tunes, there might be a belly dancer or an extra acoustic singer-songwriter.

As can be expected from a variety show in a bar on Sunday night, the "Keep Your Clothes On Variety Show" draws an eclectic crowd: the college-aged and the middle-aged, laid-back music aficionados and austere hipsters. Most groups of Eugene's social milieu are represented in this night of revelry on the most melancholy day of the week.

The performers change every week. The only things remaining constant are cheap drinks, Trai La Trash's singing and colorful humor, and the fact that there is no cover charge. Should you ever find yourself bored out of your mind on a Sunday night, make a quick jaunt over to Cowfish at Broadway and Willamette for an exciting evening with some local singers, musicians and dancers.

Cowfish offers \$2.50 wells, \$3 microbrews and \$4 mid-shelf drinks. The variety show is followed by '90s Night, an interesting concept in a time when '80s nights dominate the decade-themed dance club scene. ■





RIO TOWNER

PHOTO BY TRASKBEDORTHA

Rio Towner, a bartender at Davis' Restaurant, was the overwhelming favorite in *EW*'s "Sexiest Bartender" readers' poll. Among her many fans taking the time to cast a ballot for her general hotness, she was praised for "absolutely everything!" — for being "beautiful inside and out," for "her harem pants, cleavage and that smile... damn," for being able "to joke for days" and for being "wicked smart," as well as for the way "her sensuality and creativity mix together and burst forth into an explosion of giddy lust that is only made more intense after a sip of her expert cocktails."

Are you bringing sexy back?

Back? Shoot, I'm pushing sexy into the future where brains are the new boobs, eyebrows are the new mustache, and where people remember that the flavor is always in the fat.

Straight up or with a twist?

I think everything in life should come with an element of surprise. So why would I ever skip a twist?

Neat or on the rocks?

Preferably well-organized pebbles. Nah, as much as I hate to admit it, I'm just not badass enough for a Laphroaig neat. That distinct burnt Muppet flavor always transports me to mysterious and frightening places. However, I will drink Irish whiskey till the holy cows come home, any way you can give it to me: neat, rocks and right outta the bottle.

If you could have a drink anywhere in the world right now, where would it be and what would you drink?

Given that it is March in Eugene, I'ma have to say gimme the most outrageous guilty pleasure — frufru, frozen, fruity and fabulous tropical drink topped with Carmen Miranda and an umbrella. Naturally, I assume you understand this order comes with a warm beach, a group of friends and a well-greased cabana boy... well, maybe skip the friends, and just leave me the cabana boy.

Do you have any special drinks?

Many, many, many! One of the greatest parts of my job is inventing new drinks. It's always good to show up when I'm testing new recipes and need fresh palettes for tasting. However, my claim to fame is probably the titillating "I dream of Rio." For a good laugh, ask to see it with its original garnish!

What's the sexiest part of your job?

Loving it. Having fun in every moment, and with everyone. Oh, yeah, and the occasional slow and sexy "Dirty Dancing" crawl across the bar to bestow a kiss on some lucky sucker!

What is the scariest pickup line you've ever heard?

"Ooh girl, I want you like a breakfast buffet, so I can just lay you out on the table and take what I want!" I'd say that just about covers the basics... But, truly, there are so many gems.

Do people really throw drinks on other people, or does that just happen in the movies?

I don't know a woman alive who hasn't wanted to throw a drink in someone's face, but mostly we try to live out those fantasies in our heads. I stay pretty satisfied with the occasional spray down with the soda gun. A fantastic trick I learned from my boss Tom during his many years, and many personal hosings of me, as a bartender.

What's the strangest thing that ever happened to you while tending bar?

In the world of bartending, I think strange becomes normal, and normal is downright creepy. But I'm saving a few for the grandkids. Something involving a slap fight, a peanut and just the right song

Do you flirt with customers for better tips?

Never for better tips. Always for better entertainment! Because, really, who doesn't like a little wink and a smile?

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EW readers indicated they'd like to pour some sugar on Jay Pezzotti, having voted the 19th St. McMenamin's bartender the sexiest in town in our current readers poll. One voter asked, "What isn't sexy about him?" while many pointed to his "kill" beard — "his rotating facial hair... a new sexy trim every week!" — as the source of his infinite appeal. But with Pezzotti, it doesn't stop at the beard. Some pointed out his hair, his "dark eyes," his "secret passion for fruity drinks." One voter called him "the sexiest man alive," while another reader confessed that Pezzotti's hotness "makes me question my sexuality." Yow.

Are you bringing sexy back?

That's for you to come in and decide for yourself.

Straight up or with a twist?

Straight up.

Neat or on the rocks?

Definitely on the rocks.

If you could have a drink anywhere in the world right now, where would it be and what would you drink?

It would be at Charlie Sheen's house drinking tiger blood and chasing it with a bottle of Glen Garioch's 46-year-old whisky.

Do you have any special drinks?

Whiskey on the rocks — the rest I leave up to management.



PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

JAY PEZZOTTI

What's the sexiest part of your job?

When I get to play with fire.

What is the scariest pickup line you've ever heard?

Girl: "My friend wanted me to come over here to ask if you would like to go get drinks later?" Me: "Why doesn't she ask me herself?" Girl: "She is over there

with her ex-boyfriend, we just picked him up out of jail and she doesn't want to make him jealous."

Do people really throw drinks on other people, or does that just happen in the movies?

Not at any bar that I've been to. Why waste the alcohol?

What's the strangest thing that ever happened to you while tending bar?

I've seen a girl accidentally catch her hair on fire with a table candle. No one was hurt.

Do you flirt with customers for better tips?

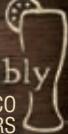
No, but if it makes them smile, then they are a lot more pleasant to talk to.

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PHOTOS BY TRASK BEDORTHA

BLITZKRIEG BOOZING

Knocking back Eugene's happy hours at lightning speed BY DANTE ZUÑIGA-WEST

"Happiness is an inside job." -William Arthur Ward

I was given a mission, a stipend, a photographer and a designated driver. The objective: Attend a continuous series of happy hours between the times of 3 pm and 9 pm. Six hours of "happiness." And no beer (*EW*'s "Suds" issue comes out later), only hard liquor. I knew I was the man for the job.

If you will permit me a moment of personal disclosure: The men of my family are known to possess stomachs of iron. Whether seafood or Sauza, we hold it down. I had no fear.

Started off at High Street McMenamins. The afternoon was young but I felt the sinew of happy hour upon me. A nomenclature that embodies the essence of Orwellian double-speak, it's safe to say that "happy hour" isn't about happiness at all. It is about the working day really sucking, getting a bad case of the "drunchies," or obliterating the fact that you may not have a job to drink yourself away from.

Three in the afternoon, rum and coke, skeletal men approach the bar chewing their lips. They take one look at me and elect to drink in the solitude of a nearby booth. I don't blame them.

I'm not supposed to meet up with my DD until 4:45 pm, but the next happy hour on my list is Agate Alley and it

ends at 5 pm. I am on foot. One man, one drink in the hole, one moleskin journal to record the mission. I also carry a digital recorder, should the events of the evening render me physically incapable of putting pen to page.

I cruise to the next nav-point, cutting through alleys and hopping across one-way streets. Four thirty, late afternoon, tequila sunrise. Contacted by the DD, who retrieves me promptly. The next happy hour ends at 6 pm, so we swing by the *EW* office to collect the photographer. The Davis, 5:30 pm, vodka and cranberry. Water.

I prepared for this assignment like a sport, drinking glass after glass of H₂O and saturating my body with vitamins and miso soup the night before.

Drink finished, back to the vehicle. Next stop Turtles. We slide in just in time and the bartender is kind. I unholster the moleskin and begin to pen my surroundings. Working moms enjoying a moment of quiet before heading home to the hellions, lone college boys eating sandwiches, staring into the flat-screened dumb boxes. Time passes, I am still not "happy," although the spirits are beginning to take effect.

Hours, time-yarn, grandfather clock ticking with chisel and hammer. Where the hell is my photographer? "Sorry man, I forgot to take pictures back there, I was too busy drinking." Night stretches. Starlight. Horsehead. More bars — "What do you mean you don't make vodka gimlets?"

What the hell did I do with my wallet? "This place smells like leather and crotch fungus!" Can I quote you on that? Gin and tonic. What time is it? Light blurs. Images sharpen and fade. "What's your story man?" That's awful. Inside thoughts spilled outward. Clarity. It could be worse. Thank God I'm not drinking this heavily for a reason, I'm on the job. No, really I am.

Happy hour? These people don't look happy — they look like animals trapped in pretty suburban houses as some natural disaster approaches. Who knows what the hell I look like by now. Car again. "How you feeling?" I don't know. *Happy?* Is The Wetlands on Garfield or Chambers? Make a right here. Don't return that smile, she isn't worth it. Your girlfriend is drop-dead gorgeous. Pineapple and Hennessy. Your photographer has been drinking double shots and is "happier" than you are. Ali could fight moving backwards, which is hard to do. That's why he was the greatest fighter ever. Hell of a jab. Let's flee this place. I'm not happy yet. Shut up. Whiskey. "If you take one more picture of me tonight I am going to punch you." Where is my digital recorder? What do you mean you guys are leaving? Long Island ice tea. No, seriously, where is it? *Happy?* Somewhere between here and 13th Avenue, maybe. Still searching. I don't know. It's like that?

Yeah man, it is. ■

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HIGHWAY 99 REVISITED

In search of the real people's drinking hole BY WILLIAM KENNEDY

"I was burned out on people, their talk and their bullshit"
— Henry Rollins

A friend of mine recently moved back to Brooklyn. I wrote to her: "Oh M., you moved away just when things here were getting so...exactly the same." Tonkin is my partner in crime, and we were in a rut. We'd been beating a path on the sidewalk to the same coffee, the same food, drink and cocktails for too long. When you are beginning to relate to the pathos of a serial killer, it's time for a change. So I told Tonkin to clear her schedule on a Saturday night, and we hit the road.

Highway 99. Jack Kerouac wrote of you in *Dharma Bums*. He doesn't mention Eugene, but he does mention pancakes in Junction City. He hitched his way through this area, in the days when you were *the road, king road*, winding lazily through the valley and cutting directly through Eugene. Around you sprung up motels, many of which still exist — glorious relics of a mid-century era when traveling by car was something to be celebrated. As well as mills and scrap-yards, temples of American industrial power and the Oregon timber juggernaut — many now abandoned, and some still in use. When I-5 came along, you were largely abandoned save for local commuter traffic, and much of the commerce that traffic once brought shifted east.

As Tonkin and I drove past the four-corners area of Eugene and Highway 99 stretched out before us into the night, I began to wonder what we hoped to find out here. What is it that keeps us mired in our routines — our little neighborhoods — prattling on to the same like-minded people about the same like-minded things over the same microbrews? Was it naïve, idealistic, (condescending?) to think that by barhopping along this old stretch of road we'd find the real America, the real Oregon, the *real* Eugene? What the hell does that mean anyway? Before leaving Tonkin's house we did a shot of tequila and she said to me, "I'm scared." As the tequila warmed my gut, I knew how she felt.

What is it that keeps us mired in our routines — our little neighborhoods — prattling on to the same like-minded people about the same like-minded things over the same microbrews?

Our first stop was the Spare Room Pub next to Strike City bowling alley. Immediately it was clear this was not the place we were looking for, if for no other reason than that it really is a nice place. And by nice I mean clean, and well-lit — the same beer in the same taps you can get anywhere in town. Some guy was barking a Metallica song on karaoke. On the table was propaganda about eating organic meat and being a "locavore." Tonkin and I observed some posse of sexually frustrated college kids, I downed a beer that quenched my thirst but not my nihilism, and just when some



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

Photographer's note: I did not go out with William Kennedy on his Tour de Ninety Nine. The gentleman pictured above is one of the fine patrons I encountered at Embers on my own tour. His name is Harry and his moustache is cool as shit. And so is the "Supper Club."

dental hygienist began to bellow the Dixie Chick's "Not Ready to Make Nice" on karaoke — we knew it was time to move on. This couldn't be the *real* Eugene.

Back out on the road, we drove further north — past closed food carts, a pet-grooming place called "Doggy-style" and a group of girls waiting at a bus stop, much too young to be out this late. Our next stop was the Brew-N-Cue just south of Beltline Highway — also a very well-lit place, but more in a prison cafeteria sort of way. If Tonkin and I were discovering the real Eugene, it sure likes karaoke — because here again was some transmission repairman shouting along with Black Sabbath. We ordered more beers at the bar, and began making up our own dialogue to the Charlie Sheen coverage muted on the TV.

We were closer here to finding what we were looking for. These people seemed real, working-class, salt of the earth. The old woman emceeing the karaoke looked like she'd been around the block a few times. Hank, in full motorcycle leathers and Budweiser in hand, boozily told us he'd lost his girlfriend. We suggested perhaps she was just in the ladies room. Yet still I was unsatisfied. Some squirrelly dude began screeching on karaoke "I feel good! Motherfucking' Good!" ala James Brown, and Tonkin said to me, "as your partner in crime, I'm advising that we move on."

Our last stop was Embers. The interior of Embers is like a wood paneled man cave. Tonkin and I made our way through the crowded room to the bar. On stage was a group of pot-bellied middle-aged men working their way through

Johnny Rivers' "Secret Agent Man." Old-timers danced, dressed to the nines — like the days when you dressed up to go out dancing — because it was important. As we dug into more beer and an order of fries at our barstools, someone at the other end of the crowded bar exclaimed, "I've been killing brain-cells here since '79." The barfly next to him slurred, "'79? Try '73!"

I thought to myself, "I think I've found what I'm looking for."

But just then Tonkin turned to me and said: "As your partner in crime, I think this is all bullshit. I mean, who's to say one lifestyle or set of values is more *real* than any other? We all want the same things. A place to drink, dance, blow off steam, where we're comfortable and accepted."

Of course I knew she was right. And I felt a little sorry. How could I try using these people to quell my own malaise? Be an interloper in their culture, their circles, as if they know something I don't — just because their neighborhood is different than mine? Mr. Brain-Cell-Killer-since-'79 hugged the cute young bartender in a Montgomery Gentry t-shirt. She said, "Drive safe, and happy birthday."

We downed our beers and pushed back from the bar. It was time to go. Driving back across the overpass where 99 becomes 7th Street, past the 'Whit and the Sam Bond's crowd, past the Barmuda Triangle and Soriah, I thought of these sidewalks I'd walked a thousand times. And I looked at those kids gathered smoking outside their drinking holes, like a stranger all over again. ■

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TOMMY'S • 9PM (KARAOKE W/KIM)
O BAR & GRILL • 9PM (KARAOKE W/JARED)

WEDNESDAY
MOHAWK LOUNGE • 9PM (KARAOKE W/BRI)
CORNUCOPIA • 9PM (KARAOKE W/NICK)
BLACK FOREST • 9PM (KARAOKE W/LUKE)
WHISKEY RIVER • 8PM (80s NIGHT DANCING W/JARED)
POUR HOUSE • 9PM (KARAOKE W/KIM)

THURSDAY
VILLAGE GREEN • 9PM (KARAOKE W/NICK)
THE COOLER • 10PM (KARAOKE W/MATT)
OLD PAD • 9PM (KARAOKE W/PUFFY)
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY • 9PM (KARAOKE W/JARED)
THE KEG • 9PM (DANCING W/LUKE)

FRIDAY
RED LION • 9PM (KARAOKE W/SARAH M)
THE SPARE ROOM(STRIKE CITY) • 8PM (KARAOKE W/BRI)
O BAR & GRILL • 9:30PM (KARAOKE W/MATT)
QUACKERS • 8PM (KARAOKE W/NICK)
THE KEG • 9PM (KARAOKE W/LUKE)
SIDE BAR • 9PM (KARAOKE W/JARED & TERRY LYNN)

SATURDAY
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QUACKERS • 9PM (KARAOKE W/NICK)
DUCK INN • 9PM (KARAOKE W/MATT)
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AMBROSIA RESTAURANT & BAR

174 E. Broadway. 342-4141. www.ambrosiarestaurant.com [NEIGHBORHOOD] Ambrosia's long, impressive bar just asks to be stopped at for cocktails, wine or beer and snacks to start out the night. This comfortable Italian restaurant is a longtime Eugene standard; its clientele ranges from young couples on prom night to groups of friends of all ages. 11:30 am-10 pm M-Th, 11:30 am-11 pm F-Sa, 4:30 pm-10 pm.

ASTORIA BAR & POKER ROOM, THE

2406 W. 11th Ave. 465-2277. www.myspace.com/theastoriabarandpokerroom [LIVE MUSIC, AVERAGE JOE] Blink and you might miss the Astoria's small sign, dwarfed under Staples' giant red glowing thing. The west Eugene bar hosts live music on the weekends, karaoke on Mondays and "bring your own vinyl" night on Wednesdays. Four TVs show all games. Texas hold 'em, pool, jukebox.

AX BILLY GRILL & SPORTS BAR

999 Willamette St. 484-4011. [LIVE MUSIC, SPORTS BAR] Wine, beer, microbrews, full bar. Live jazz on Saturday nights. 11:30 am-10 pm M-F, 5 pm-10 pm Sa.

AXE & FIDDLE

657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. 942-5942. www.axefiddle.com [LIVE MUSIC, OUT OF TOWN] Cottage Grove's local pub offers live music and entertainment six nights a week. Northwest beers, local wines, full menu including "the tastiest pizza in Lane County." 3 pm-close M-Sa.

B2 WINE BAR

Shadow View Dr. 505-8909. [WINE BAR] B2, in the Crescent Village development, is working to become a north Eugene hot spot, with a crowd that ranges from business lunchers to college students to seniors. A Sunday brunch omelette bar is \$6, with a mimosa added for \$4. Outdoor seating, live music, TV. Noon-11 pm M-Th, noon-midnight F & Sa.

BIER STEIN, THE

345 E. 11th Ave. 485-2437. www.myspace.com/thebeirstein [NEIGHBORHOOD] The Bier Stein has repeatedly won Best of Eugene awards for its selection for a reason: with more than 1000 bottled beers and 10 ever-changing beers on tap, the selection simply can't be beat. The kitchen serves up soup, salads, grilled panini and appetizers. More

CITY NIGHTCLUB, THE

2222 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 343-4734. thecityeugene.com [DANCE CLUB, NEIGHBORHOOD] Munchies menu, \$2 wells, \$2 Long Island iced teas. Poker nights every

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CLUB SNAFU 64 W. 8th Alley (behind Lazar's and John Henry's). 342-3272. myspace.com/clubsnafu [DANCE CLUB] "Feeling the need for something fresh and funky?" SNAFU asks. "Your all night dance party is waiting for you around the corner — just break from the typical Eugene bar scene and let your soul boogie shake it down!"

DJs spin house, techno and hip hop — "complete with rockin' energy, hot love and liberation!" Happy Hour: 8 pm-10 pm. \$1 PBR, \$2.50 wells. 8 pm-2 am F & Sa.

COOLER RESTAURANT & BAR, THE 20 Centennial Loop. 484-4355. www.thecoolerbar.com [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD] Watch Duck football or stop in before a night on the town. Young crowd, live music, TV shows all sports, all the time. Fifteen-foot big-screen TV, karaoke, DJs, lottery games, video games, pool. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm M-F and all day Sunday. \$1.75 domestic drafts, \$2.25 well liquors, \$2.75 call liquors. \$5 burger & brew M-F. Specials: TH: \$1 domestic drafts, \$1 wells, \$1.75 PBR 16 oz. cans, 9 pm-midnight. 6 am-2:30 am daily.

CORNUCOPIA 295 W. 17th St. 485-2300. [NEIGHBORHOOD] With a fairly sizable selection of bottled beers and 10 beers on tap, Cornucopia is known for its happy hour — which gets even better in the summer when you can sit in the gardenlike backyard. With an "encyclopedia menu" Cornucopia attracts a variable "cornucopia" of folks, from the funky to the fussy. Happy Hour: 3 pm-6 pm M-F. \$1 off micro pints, glasses of wine and appetizers. Daily lunch and dinner specials. 8 am-10 pm daily.

CORNUCOPIA BAR & BURGERS 207 E. 5th Ave. (5th & Pearl). 485-2676. www.eugenecatering.com [NEIGHBORHOOD] The younger sibling of the establishment on 17th & Lincoln, Cornucopia Bar & Burgers brings new life to the space that was once home to Chanterelle. Nightly events offer something for everyone: M: Trivia with Keith Appleby; Tu: live music from Jesse Meade; W: Karaoke Night (with trophies); Th: Big Screen Veg Night; F & Sa: live music; Su: Sports (on the restaurant's 10-foot big screen, we assume). Don't miss the happy hour Wheel of Prizes or a chance to play late night free Wii. Happy Hour: 3 pm-6 pm M-F. \$1 off pints or glasses of wine. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB 62 W. Broadway. 683-6319. [LOUNGE, DANCE CLUB, LIVE MUSIC] A hip but unpretentious downtown hot spot catering to an eclectic crowd and

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offering everything from ping pong to nightly DJs and dancing to live acts. Happy Hour: 5-11 pm every day. \$1 PBR, \$2 wells. 5 pm-2:30 am daily.

COZMIC PIZZA 199 W. 8th Ave. 338-9333. www.cozmicpizza.com [LIVE MUSIC] High variety venue with everything from music and dancing to films, fundraisers, private parties and community events. Exclusively Oregon beer and wine selection. Cozmic attracts an eclectic crowd. 11 am-11 pm M-Sa, 1 pm-11 pm Su. All ages at all times.

THE DAVIS' BAR 94 W. Broadway. 485-1124. [LOUNGE] Upscale downtown bar serving business folk, shoppers and downtown people, and featuring house infusions and cask-aged Manhattans. Happy Hour: \$1 off anything drink related, \$7.50 burger & brew, 4-6 pm daily. 11 am-midnight daily.

DIABLO'S DOWNTOWN LOUNGE 959 Pearl St. 343-2346. www.myspace.com/diablosdowntownlounge [LIVE MUSIC, LOUNGE] Two floors of entertainment ranging from live music to a whole host of theme events: monthly parties, Texas hold 'em, Fetish Night, Naked Sushi. M: Big Money Comedy Bingo with all-you-can-eat spaghetti, 8 pm. Tu: Big Taco Tuesday, open mic 7 pm, karaoke 9 pm. W: Downtown Blues Band, Bikes & BBQ, show 8 pm, jam 9 pm. Th: Funk and reggae jam, 9 pm, and enchilada special. F: Live music and Diablo's DJ dance party. Sa: DJs, bands and breakfast until sundown; comedy shows. Su: \$6 bloody Mary bar, karaoke at 9 pm (family karaoke 5 pm-8 pm first and third Sundays). Pool, video games, lottery games, outdoor seating, TV, pinball, DJs, darts, karaoke. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm; \$1 well drinks and microbrews, plus daily drink specials. Originators of Lucifer's Lemonade, Fresh-n-Clean and Pimp Juice cocktails. 1 pm-2:30 am daily. Minors permitted until 9 pm.

DISTRICT, THE 1290 Oak St. 434-3387. www.thedistricteugene.com [DANCE CLUB] The spacious bar and venue,

which changed hands and got quite a remodel last year, is home to a whole lotta dance events, from a Haïti benefit to a running dance-off competition. As it's just a hop, skip and a jump down 13th from the UO, expect a lot of students. Pool, DJs, live music. 10 pm-2:15 am Th-Sa.

DOC'S PAD 710 Willamette St. 343-0224. [LOUNGE, SPORTS BAR] Sports is the main focus of this cozy neighborhood bar, with two huge projection screen TVs and more than 25 HD TVs including viewing in the outdoor patio area. Also features live music, karaoke and DJs on Saturday & Sunday nights. Happy Hour: 15 percent off for students, half off appetizers, 4-7 pm M-F. Specials: \$2 Tuesday, all day. W: \$1 wells, 8 pm-close; oyster & ales Thursday, 6 pm-close. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

DUCK INN SPORTS BAR 1795 W. 6th Ave. 302-9206. [SPORTS BAR] Darts, video games, lottery games, outdoor seating, TV, pinball, karaoke. Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm weekdays; daily liquor special. Sun: \$1 PBR or Coors Original, free pool.

ELDORADO CLUB 3000 W. 11th Ave. 683-4580. [NEIGHBORHOOD] "A completely different bar than in the past," say Eldorado's owners. The west Eugene bar offers a host of entertainment options, from pool tournaments (7 pm Thursdays) to beer pong tournaments (7 pm Tuesdays) to weekend karaoke (9 pm), Wii games and nightly blackjack (9 pm). Daily drink specials, homemade chili and spaghetti. Tuesday is \$1 day, with dollar beers and tacos and free pool. Pool, video games, lottery games, TV, darts, covered smoking area, outdoor seating. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm; \$3 micros, \$2 domestics, \$1 house beer, \$3 well drinks. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

THE EMBERS 1811 Hwy 99 N. 688-6564. [NEIGHBORHOOD, LOUNGE] A drinking hole with a friendly vibe, the kind of place you'd be happy to take your grandpa or your old drinking buddies. Featuring down

home cooking and daily soup specials. Happy Hour: 5-6 pm M-F. 7 am-2 am Tu-Sa, 7 am-10 pm Mo.

EUGENE CITY BREWERY 844 Olive St. 345-4155. [NEIGHBORHOOD]

More than 25 Rogue brews on tap. Menu includes Kobe beef burgers and tasty fish and chips, but it isn't cheap: if all you need is a snack to absorb your beers, don't pass up the delicious buffalo chips (even tastier with bleu cheese for dipping!). Outdoor seating, TV, lottery games. Specials: Happy meals 11 am-2 pm M-F; a pint of beer and a toy for \$2 with any meal. Bingo at 7:30 pm Wednesdays and trivia with Mr. Bill Fridays at 8 pm. 11 am-12 am Su-Th, 11 am-1 am Fr & Sa.

FATHOMS BAR 790 E. 14th Ave. (below Pegasus Pizza). 344-4471. pegasuspizza.net [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR]

Small, intimate bar with great Pegasus Pizza. Fathoms' scene is students and people looking for a good time. Two Wednesdays a month the bar is home to Rock and Roll Damnation with live DJs spinning classic rock, punk, metal, glam, New Wave, soul and blues on vinyl only. When you tire of burger 'n' brews, try mini pizza and brew, 5 pm-9 pm Monday and Tuesday: \$4.95 domestic, \$5.95 micro. Happy Hour: 8:30 pm-10 pm M-Sa: \$1.50 well drinks and domestic beers. Pool, pinball, HDTV. 5 pm-close M-Sa.

GOOD TIMES CAFE & BAR 375 E. 7th Ave. 484-7181. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR]

Sports bar by day, service industry hangout at night, college kids on the weekend. Always a trustworthy choice when you can't find the game on TV. 36 taps, 5 pool tables, outside patio, full bar and 14 big screen TVs. Video games, lottery games, live music, pinball. Specials: Su & M: free pool; T: blues jam and \$2.50 wells 9 pm-midnight. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

HIGH STREET BREWERY & CAFE 1243 High St. 345-4905. [NEIGHBORHOOD]

It can be hard to get a seat in this comfy, welcoming brewpub-in-a-house

on a weekend night, but always worth it for burgers, tater tots, surprisingly filling salads and pitchers of McMenamin's beer. Outdoor seating. 11 am-1 am M-Sa, noon-midnight Su.

HIGHLANDS BREW PUB 390 E. 40th Ave. 485-4304. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR]

With plenty of pool tables and pinball machines, Highlands is a great place to get a pint or a pitcher and watch a Ducks game. Impressive selection of beers on tap. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

HOP VALLEY BREWING COMPANY 980 Kruse Way, Springfield. 744-3330. www.hopvalleybrewing.com [NEIGHBORHOOD]

It's just a hop (er, sorry) out to Springfield to try out this brewpub, which boasts former Eugene City Brewery brewer Trevor Howard's creations. With a full menu, a good beer selection and a big, booth-heavy space, Hop Valley is a great addition to Springfield's eating and drinking lineup. 11 am-2 am daily.

HORSEHEAD BAR 99 W. Broadway. 683-3154. www.myspace.com/horseheadbar [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD]

Laid-back local bar with generously sized smoking patios in front and back. Cool staff with diverse musical tastes makes your stiff drinks fast. Great tattoos on most of the staff and half of the customers. Bartender Ty Connor was voted Eugene's Best Bartender in the 2009-2010 EW Best of Eugene readers' poll. Pool, darts, video games, pinball, outdoor seating, TV, daily food specials. Happy Hour: 11:30 am-9 pm daily; \$2.75 well drinks, \$5.50 well doubles. \$7.50 off call drinks, \$2.25 PBR, \$2.50 domestics, \$3.50 micros. 10 pm-2:30 am: \$6.75 well doubles. Super Happy Hour: 4 pm-5 pm: \$1.50 domestics, \$2.50 micros. Daily food specials. Free pool until 10 pm every day, and all day Su & M. 11:30 am-2:30 am daily.

JACKALOPE LOUNGE 453 Willamette St. 485-1519. www.jackalopelounge.com [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR]

Comfy sports bar with a good

number of beers on tap, friendly bartenders and more TVs than you can shake a stick at. Burger or bratwurst & brew on Monday. Monday nights also offer Guitar Hero and Rock Band competitions starting at 8 pm. Pool, darts, video games, lottery games, pinball, TV, outdoor seating, wi-fi. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

JAMESON'S 115 W. Broadway. 485-9913. [LOUNGE]

A warm, stylish, often packed, comfortable place to shoot pool, talk to friends and partake in the bar's selection of Scotch, Irish and American whiskies. The padded, massive bar is a great place to perch and people-watch in between rounds of darts, and the high-backed booths are just right for a place like this. Free pool 4 pm-9 pm daily and all day Su & M. Outdoor seating, TV, pool, darts. Happy Hour: 4 pm-9 pm daily; \$1 off micros and liquors, \$1.50 off martinis, \$1.25 PBRs. 4 pm-2:30 am daily.

JIMMY MAC'S OVERTIME GRILL 770 S. Bertelsen. 342-5028. [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD]

Cold beer and good food for good prices. Diverse clientele, 25-cent pool tables. Breakfast 7 am-11 am M-F and 7 am-3 pm Sa & Su. Happy Hour: 7 am-9 am and 4 pm-7 pm daily; 11 pm-midnight weekdays. \$2.25 domestic drafts, \$3.25 micro and well drinks. Video games, lottery games, outdoor seating, live music, TV, pinball. Specials: Th: Westside Blues Jam 8 pm-1 am; Sunday Services - \$1.25 domestic drafts, \$2.25 micros 7 am-5 pm. 7 am-2 am daily.

JOHN HENRY'S 77 W. Broadway. 342-3358. johnhenrysclub.com [AVERAGE JOE, DANCE CLUB, LIVE MUSIC]

Scene changes every night of the week but most nights, John Henry's has a mixed crowd. Wide variety of events from '80s dance night to burlesque show. National and local bands cross the small black stage. Friendly staff and cool T-shirts. No happy hour, but reasonably priced drinks all the time. Pool, video games, lottery games, pinball. John Henry's Best of Eugene awards include Best Place to Go Dancing and Best Place to Meet

Someone You'd Never Take Home to Mom (2009-2010 and 2008-2009).

LAVA LOUNGE & RING OF FIRE 1099 Chambers. 344-6475. ringoffirerestaurant.com [LOUNGE] "Pacific Rim kisses the Northwest with a fusion of flavors, exotic infusions and Lava Lounge's specialty cocktails that will register on your own personal Richter scale," the Lava Lounge folks explain. With local microbrews, made-in-Oregon liquors and the chili margarita, which was voted Best House Drink in the 2009-2010 EW Best of Eugene readers' poll. 11 am-11 pm M-Sa, noon-11 pm Su.

LAVELLE CLUB ROOM AT THE MARKET

296 E. 5th Ave. 338-9875. lavellevineyards.com [LIVE MUSIC, LOUNGE] Owned and operated by LaVelle Vineyards. Wine tastings during the day and small menu served evenings, with live music 5:30 pm-8:30 pm Th & F Noon-6 pm Sa-Tu, 3 pm-9 pm W-F.

LOFT AT TURTLES,

THE 2690 Willamette St. 465-9038. [LIVE MUSIC, LOUNGE] The Loft, located just behind the popular south Eugene restaurant Turtles, has two floors, a fireplace and the full Turtles menu, but in a loungier atmosphere, with live music some nights. 5 pm-2 am daily.

LUCKEY'S 933 Olive St. 687-4643. luckeysclub.com [LIVE MUSIC]

Eugene's oldest bar, this Irish pub has loads of history (just read the framed articles on the wall while you wait for your turn to shoot pool!) and hosts live music Tuesday-Saturday: generally indie, funk, alt country, jazz and singer-songwriters. Darts, video games, lottery games, TV, DJs. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm daily; \$1 off microbrews, \$1 off liquor. \$2 featured micro Monday-Thursday.

MAC'S AT THE VET'S CLUB 1626 Willamette St. www.macsatthevets.com [AVERAGE JOE, LIVE MUSIC]

Diverse crowd — jocks, hippies, bikers, business folks, old folks, veterans, kids and musicians. Dance floor, video games, lottery games, outdoor seating, TV, live music, full dinner menu. Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm. \$50.

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SWIZZLE BAR & NIGHTCLUB LISTINGS

off well drinks and draft beers. Specials: Tu: \$7 dinner specials; W: \$6 Burger & Brew; Th: \$2 MacTarnahan's 9 pm-midnight. At least three drink specials nightly. \$1 PBR for veterans. 9 am-10 pm daily.

MARCHÉ 296 E. 5th St. (Fifth Street Market). 342-3612. www.marcherestaurant.com [LOUNGE] There are very few seats in the bar of this respected Eugene restaurant, but they're worth grabbing — both for the carefully made cocktails and for the bar menu, which ranges from pizzas to oysters to an ample charcuterie plate. Like the restaurant's food, Marché's cocktails are made with an eye to what's in season; ever-changing aperitifs and other drinks make use of fresh, local produce. 11:30 am-11 pm M-Sa; 11:30 am-10 pm Su.

MAX'S TAVERN 550 E. 13th Ave. [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD] Eugene's old standby got gussied up in the last few years with a beautiful new bar and extensive renovations. Occasional live music; always friendly bartenders and endless bowls of buttery popcorn. Tuesday is trivia night; head down at 8 pm and win cash or wacky prizes! Pool, video games, TV, wi-fi.

MCSHANE'S BAR & GRILL 86495 College View Rd. [LIVE MUSIC, NEIGHBORHOOD] An out-of-the-way but totally worth it bar owned and operated by a local bartender with 12 years experience serving Eugene/Springfield bar patrons. Indoor smoking section and a diverse clientele. Building has tons of character and several floors of amusement — just watch out for the tricycle racers on Tuesdays! Pool, darts, video games, lottery games, outdoor seating, TV, pinball. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm M-F. \$2.25 well drinks, \$1.75 domestics, \$1.50 PBRs, \$2.75 micros. Specials: M: Micro Mondays, \$2.50 micro-pints 4 pm-midnight; Tu: Two Buck Tuesdays, \$2 well drinks from 7 pm-midnight; W: Women's Wednesday, \$1 off all food and

beverage purchases for ladies; Th: Burger and Brew \$6 4 pm-midnight; F: \$5 Long Islands 7 pm-midnight; Sa: Stoli Saturdays, \$1 off all Stolichnaya cocktails 8 pm-midnight; Su: Service Industry Night, \$1 discount on all food & beverage purchases for service industry workers. Free pool 10 pm-2 am nightly. 11 am-2:30 am daily.

MOHAWK TAVERN 1501 Mohawk Blvd, Spfd. 747-3211. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] Neighborhood joint featuring pool, darts and 13 brand-new big screen TVs for your sports viewing pleasure. Also hosts karaoke and live music. Happy Hour: 11 am-2 pm & 4-7 pm M-F, 8:30 am-6 pm Sa, all day Su. Specials: M: \$1 PBR all day; T: \$2.75 margaritas & Coronas all day, \$10 buckets of domestics, \$12 buckets of Coronas until 8 pm; W: \$3 Widmers, wells, wine & wine coolers all day; Th: \$3.25 microbrews all day, \$6 domestic pitchers until 8 pm; F: \$4 call brand liquors, \$5 burger & brews until 8 pm; SA: happy hour 8:30 am-6 pm; SU: happy hour all day, 8:30 am-midnight Su-Tu, 8:30 am-1:30 am W, 8:30 am-2:30 am Th-Sa.

MULLIGAN'S 2841 Willamette St. 484-1727. [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD] This down-to-earth Willamette Street bar is home to a dedicated group of regulars and a busy open mic night on Wednesdays and Sundays (sign-up is at 8:30). Pool, outdoor seating, lottery games.

NILE GENTLEMAN'S CLUB, THE 1030 Hwy. 99. 688-1869. www.thenileeugene.com [TITTY BAR] No cover, more than 120 beers, full menu until midnight. 4 pm-2:30 am M-Sa, 4 pm-midnight Su.

O BAR, THE 115 Commons Dr. 349-0707. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] "The ultimate Duck experience," say the folks at the O Bar, which

was in *Playboy*'s 2009 list of the top 10 college sports bars. Full kitchen serves pasta, pizza, burgers and more until 2 am; breakfast is available on the weekends. Events include Monday trivia night (7:30 pm) and karaoke on Tuesday and Friday. Weeknight happy hour offers \$2 domestic drafts and \$3 wells. Specials: Su: 50-cent tacos; Tu: Ladies' night, \$2 wells; W: Burger and brew, \$5; Th: Thirsty Thursday 8 pm-midnight, \$2 domestics, \$3 micros and \$2 wells. Lottery games, TV, outdoor seating. 11 am-2:30 pm.

OAK STREET SPEAKEASY 915 Oak St. 284-4000. www.myspace.com/oakstreetspeakeasy [LIVE MUSIC] This underground space at the corner of Oak and Broadway hosts live music on the weekends, but never has a cover charge. 11:30 am-midnight M-F, 4:30 pm-midnight Sa & Su.

O'DONNELL'S 295 Hwy 99 N. 688-4902. [NEIGHBORHOOD] Nice pub featuring burgers, etc. and karaoke three nights a week. Happy Hour: 4-6 pm M-F & 10 pm-close W-F. Specials: SU: \$1 PBR & free pool, 10 am-6 pm Su. 10 am-2:30 am daily.

OLD PAD, THE 3355 E. Amazon [AVERAGE JOE, NEIGHBORHOOD] The former bartending home of Steve Prefontaine features six big screen TVs with surround sound for taking in Ducks or other games, a digital jukebox, four pool tables and other games (including Oregon Lottery). This long-running bar, which opened in 1962, has 21 beers on tap and offers regular drink and beer specials. The Old Pad is "Eugene's home for the UFC," they say; events are shown without a cover, and prizes are given out after each event. Specials: Tu: \$1 tacos, free pool; W: \$1 broasted hot legs and half-price bottles of wine; F: full prime rib dinners, \$9.99. Caught-in-the-Act karaoke at 9 pm Thursdays. Pool, video

games, lottery games, heated outdoor seating, TV, pinball, karaoke. Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm M-F, 7 am-2:30 am M-Sa, 7 am-midnight Su.

PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN & BLUES JOINT 400 Blair Blvd. 342-7500. www.myspace.com/papassoulkitchen [LIVE MUSIC, NEIGHBORHOOD] Papa's isn't just about satisfying soul food; it's also home to a full bar and \$3 hurricanes, with live music some nights — and on the back patio in the summertime. Noon-midnight pm Tu-F, 1 pm-midnight Sa.

PHIL'S CLUBHOUSE 1195 Main St., Springfield. 741-0402. [TITTY BAR] Live nude entertainment. Pool, TV, DJs. Noon-2:30am daily.

RABBIT BAR & BISTRO, THE 2864 Willamette St. 343-8226. www.rabbitbistro.com [LOUNGE] It's surprisingly easy to forget you're just steps from several giant superstores when you're at the Rabbit's small and welcoming bar. The generous cocktail list offers the classics, the solid creations of the Rabbit's bartenders (often named for bands) — and the cheerily silly Bubblegum Drank, made with house-infused bubblegum vodka (it's a vivid, frightening pink) and lemon. 11:30 am-10 pm M-F (closed 2 pm-4:30 pm weekdays), 4:30 pm-10 pm Sa, 4:30 pm-9 pm Su.

RED AGAVE 454 Willamette St. 683-2206. redagave.net [LOUNGE] The tiny but enticing bar at this Latin American restaurant offers a bright and interesting cocktail list (though sadly the drink involving balsamic vinegar seems to have gone missing — no, seriously! It was delicious!). Dine off the regular dinner menu or the smaller Cantina Menu, which is also available after dinner service. 5 pm-at least 11 pm M-Th; 5 pm-at least midnight F & Sa.

RENNIE'S LANDING 1214 Kincaid. 687-0600. www.rennieslanding.com [NEIGHBORHOOD] Comfy college

bar with a late night menu. Two decks and great fish and chips. Free pool on Sundays. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm Su-F and 10pm-midnight Su-Th; Domestic pints \$2.75 and pitchers, \$6.50; micro pints \$3.50 and pitchers \$8.95; \$2.50 wells, \$4.50 doubles. Pinball, video games, pool, flat-screen TV, smoking on patios, Bud pong. 7:30 am-2 am M-F, 9 am-2 am Sa & Su.

THE ROK 44 E. 7th Ave. 344-1293. [DANCE CLUB] New nightclub featuring high capacity and large dance floor, and covering eclectic tastes from hip hop to Top 40. No cover for students and military, and women get in free all day every day. Free parking. Happy Hour: 4-7 pm every day, \$1.75 domestic, \$2 wells, \$2.25 micro, \$2 baskets of fries, chips, toots and homemade potato chips. Specials: \$1.25 PBR & Rainier every day; TH: \$1 draft, wells & special cocktails; FR & SA: \$2 Smirnoff vodka, \$3 skittles & jolly ranchers, \$4 Long Islands 9 pm-midnight. Pinball, lottery games, darts. Tu: \$1 tacos starting at 4 pm. 10 am-2:30 am daily.

SAM BOND'S GARAGE 407 Blair Blvd. 431-6603. sambonds.com [LIVE MUSIC, NEIGHBORHOOD] Voted Best Bar in last four EW Best of Eugene readers' polls (not to mention the Best Regular Event Night, for Monday's Bingo Night, in the 2009-2010 poll). Funky space with varied live music and friendly crowd. The garlicky-est garlic bread ever seen and delicious slices of pizza stand out on the menu; a handful of micro taps and full bar offer plenty of libations. The back patio is a fantastic place to relax when it's nice out — and a nice place to escape when the inside gets supercrowded. 4 pm-late daily.

SAM'S PLACE 825 Wilson St. 484-4455. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] West Eugene's friendly, local bar. Lottery games, outdoor seating. 9 am-2:30 am M-F, 8 am-2:30 am Sa, 8 am-midnight Su.

SIXTH STREET GRILL 55 W. 6th Ave. 485-2961. sixthstreetgrill.com [SPORTS BAR]

The bar half of Sixth Street Bar and Grill is definitely a sports-focused establishment, from the giant old scoreboard to the many TVs. If there's a game on, you can probably see it here, in a mellow, social atmosphere with plenty of food options. Good array of taps and daily specials, including the Tuesday Burger and Brew (\$7) — but expect a wait for that one. Monday is Free Beer Night; get a free beer, wine or cocktail with your dinner entrée. Mark Alan plays Thursday nights (no cover). Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm daily. HDTV, lottery games, video games. 11 am-midnight Su-Th, 8 am-1 am F & Sa.

SPIRITS BIKER BAR 1714 Main St., Springfield. 726-0113. [AVERAGE JOE] Springfield bike bar proudly lists designated motorcycle parking among its amenities, along with two pool tables, a large-screen TV and a dance floor; live music Th-Sa. Pinball, lottery games, darts. Tu: \$1 tacos starting at 4 pm. 10 am-2:30 am daily.

STACY'S COVERED BRIDGE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 401 E. Main, Cottage Grove. [OUT OF TOWN] Located on the historic bank of Cottage Grove. Clientele includes business folk, teachers, hippies, locals. Live music, TV, outdoor seating. Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm daily. \$1 off all drinks, \$2 off appetizers. Specials: M: \$1/oz. prime rib; W: Open mic and Ladies' Night, any drink \$2.50 8 pm-midnight; Th: Long Island Iced Teas \$2.75, 18 flavors to choose from. 4 pm-11 pm-ish daily.

STARLIGHT LOUNGE 830 Olive St. 343-3204. myspace.com/thestarlightlounge [LOUNGE, NEIGHBORHOOD] The Starlight is a cozy, couch-strewn place that serves only made-in-Eugene beers, features Oregon-made spirits on its cocktail menu and offers a large selection of Oregon wines. A private billiards room with large HDTV is available for \$5 per hour, and the Starlight has wi-fi, which is pretty nifty. Voted Best Happy Hour/Drink

Specials in the 2009-2010 EW Best of Eugene readers' poll. Darts, lottery games, video games, outdoor seating. Happy Hour: 4 pm-7 pm daily; \$2 white Russians made with Crater Lake Vodka; \$2 rotating tap featuring Ninkasi, Oakshire or Hop Valley beer; \$2 Hinman wines. \$2 Sauza tequila shots nightly from 9:30 pm-10:30 pm. 4 pm-2:30 am daily.

STEELHEAD BREWERY 199 E. 5th Ave. 686-2739. www.steelheadbrewery.com [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] This Eugene staple is known for good food and beer. 11:30 am-11:30 pm daily.

SWEET BASIL BAR 941 Pearl St. 284-2944. sweetbasileug.com [LOUNGE] Elegant bar in the downtown Thai restaurant serves up microbrews, cocktails (with infused liquors) and appetizers. Happy Hour: 5 pm-7 pm M-W; \$2.50 drafts and selected appetizers. 10 am-1 am daily.

SWEET ILLUSIONS 1836 South A St., Springfield. 762-1503. [TITTY BAR] "Always open and never clothed," says the punny information from this Springfield bar, which touts its "clean and artful atmosphere with 44 nude beauties." Sweet Illusions offers a private Champagne room and an outdoor covered (and, we assume, clothed) smoking patio. Specials: M & W \$15 table dance and drink specials. Video games, lottery games, TV, DJs. "Nude hours" noon-2:15 am daily.

TAYLOR'S BAR & GRILL 701 High St. 544-6174. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] A sports bar that caters to college kids and professors, neighborhood folk, athletes and musicians, with tons of TVs and often featuring live music or DJs. There is almost never a cover charge (only Wed. 9-10:30 pm). Outside seating. Happy Hour: 5-7 pm M-Sa, all day Su. \$1.25 off all drinks, \$2.25 off all pitchers. Specials: M-TU: \$1 wells, 9-11 pm; TU: \$1.50 16 oz. can beers, \$4.50 Tic-Tac shots, 10 pm-midnight; W: \$1 micros, 9-10:30 pm, \$2 wells, 10-midnight; TH: \$1 domestics draft, 9-midnight, \$2 wells, Long

Islands, Long Beaches, AMFs; F: \$2.35 oz. supermugs domestics, 9-10:30 pm, \$4.35 oz. supermugs domestics, 10:30 pm-midnight, \$3 vodkas & Red Bulls, 10 pm-midnight; SU: \$1.25 off all drinks, \$2.25 off all pitchers, all day. 9 am-2:30 pm daily.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS & WINE CO. 907 W. 3rd Ave. 684-9563. www.territorialvineyards.com [WINE BAR] Tasting room for the local vineyard offers local music Thursday evenings. 5 pm-11 pm Th, 5 pm-9 pm F & Sa.

TINY TAVERN 394 Blair Blvd. 687-8383. www.tinytavern.com [LIVE MUSIC] Serving Eugene since 1938, this funky Whiteaker bar has loyal followers of its quirky charms. Famous chili, daily beer specials, live music and more. 11 am-2 am daily.

TURTLES BAR & GRILL 2690 Willamette St. 465-9038. [NEIGHBORHOOD] Warm, casual, family friendly atmosphere. Wide variety of comfort food, full bar, large portions. Specials every night on food and drinks and a lengthy menu of specialty cocktails. Outdoor seating, TV. Happy Hour: 3 pm-5 pm daily, \$2 pints, \$1 off appetizers, \$1 off glasses of wine & well drinks. 11 am-midnight daily.

VINTAGE, THE 837 Lincoln St. 349-9781. thevintageeugene.com [LOUNGE, NEIGHBORHOOD] This restaurant and bar makes its home in a tiny, charming house; sit downstairs at the bar or watch the world go by from an upstairs window. Snack on crepes and make the most of the Vintage's daily food and drink specials: M: Margarita Monday, buy one get one free; Tu: Tuesday Boozeday, half price cocktails all day; W: Wine Wednesday, all glass pours half price; Th: Burger and 2 Brews, burger and two pints for \$8. Happy Hour: 4 pm-6 pm daily. Buy one get one tapas; \$2.50 drafts; \$3.75 well drinks; \$4.50 wines by the glass; \$4.75 Absolut cocktails. 11 am-10 pm M-Th, 11 am-midnight F, 9 am-midnight Sa, 9 am-9 pm Su.

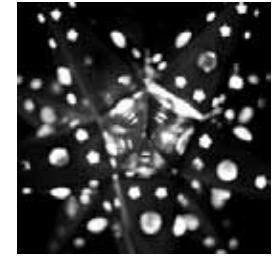
WETLANDS BREW PUB & SPORTS BAR 922 Garfield. 345-3606. [NEIGHBORHOOD, SPORTS BAR] Wetlands is home to fans of everything from punk rock to hip hop to, of course, the Oregon Ducks. Heated smoking and pool area. An impressive array of beers on tap and good, reasonably priced food round out the West Eugene experience. Darts, video games, lottery games, TV, pinball, DJs. Happy Hour: 7 am-11 am daily, \$1.75 domestics, 4 pm-7 pm daily, \$2.75 micros. Specials: M: \$2 margaritas; S: Corona; Tu: \$3.50 bananaramas; W: \$3.50 40 oz PBR; Th: \$2 wells 9-11 pm; F: \$4 Long Islands, AMFs, black opals; Sa: \$3.50 Wetland Lemonade; Su: \$5 PBR pitchers. \$1.50 PBR glasses. 7 am-2:30 am daily.

WHISKEY RIVER RANCH 4740 Main St., Spfd. 744-1594. [NEIGHBORHOOD, LIVE MUSIC] A saloon/steakhouse type setting featuring a dance floor and live music, as well as a full menu (breakfast all day, every day), giant-screen TV and games. Happy Hour: 3-7 pm M-F, 11 am-2:30 pm M-F, 7 am-2:30 am Sa-Su.

WOW HALL 291 W. 8th Ave. 687-2746. [LIVE MUSIC] An all-ages venue and Eugene institution. Shows most nights, from folk to indie to punk and back again. Downstairs bar with several beers on tap and a large selection of bottled beers. Now if only the bar were open all the time ... The WOW consistently wins both Best All-Ages Hangout and Best Live Music Venue in EW's Best of Eugene readers' polls.

Did we miss something? Get the details incorrect? Reminder mailings are sent to bars before Swizzle comes out, asking for updated information, but we'd be happy to fix any errors that still slipped through. Send corrections and suggestions to molly@eugeneweekly.com.

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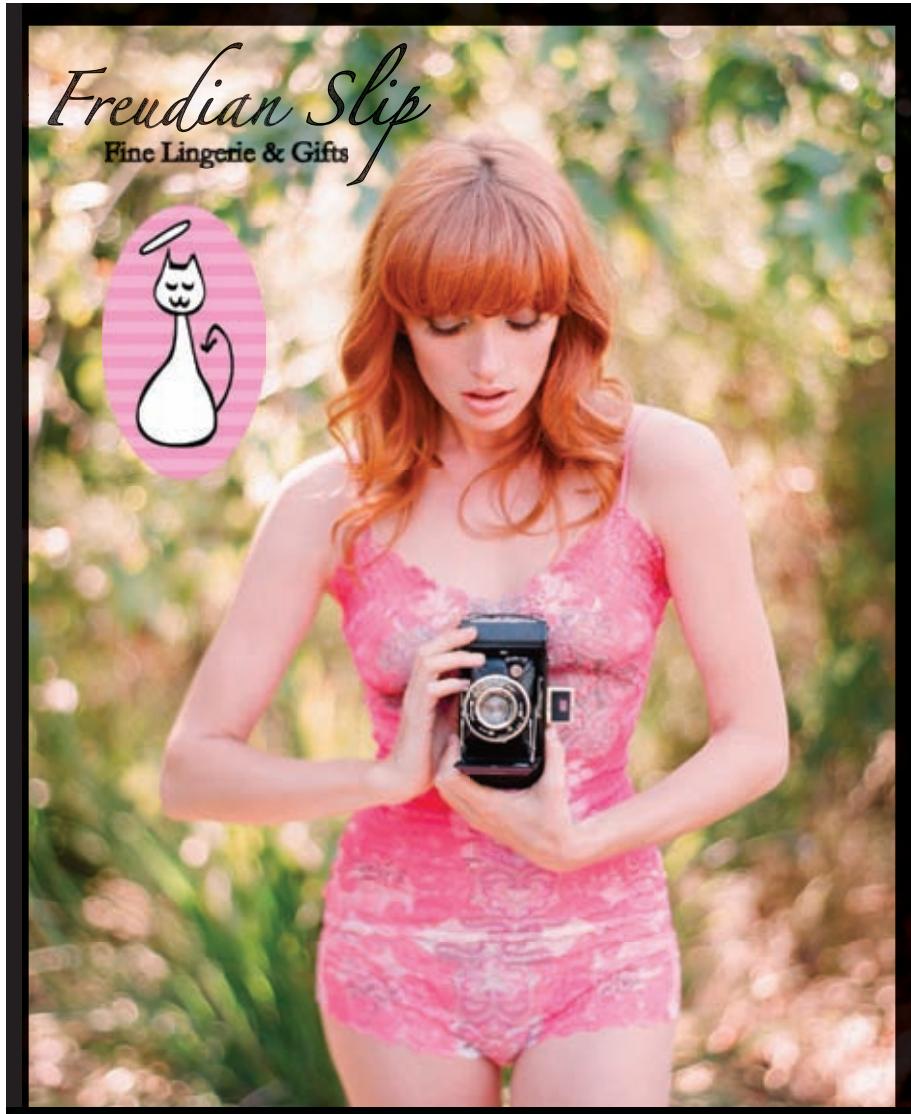
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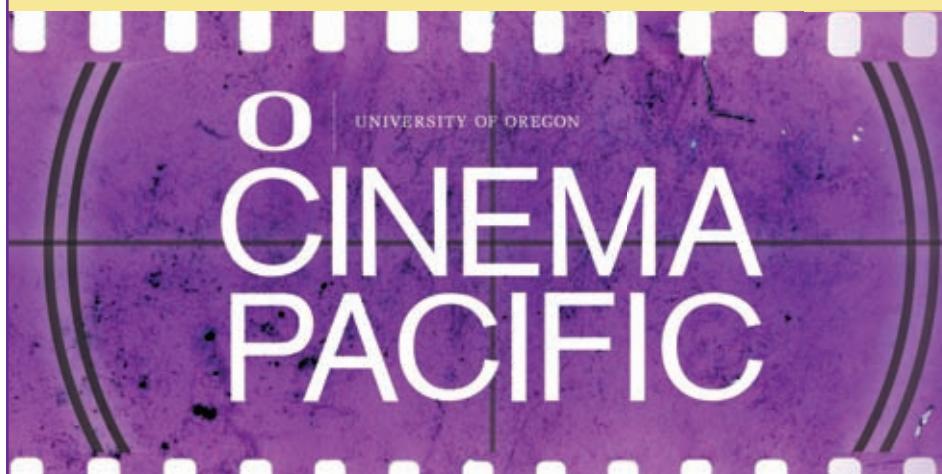


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